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**BAPTISMS:** Registered parishioners call the Parish Office

# MARRIAGES

Please set the date with the priest or deacon at least six months prior to the wedding. Weddings cannot be scheduled after the Saturday evening Mass or on Sundays.

# **BULLETIN DEADLINE & INSERTS**

Please submit any bulletin announcements to the Parish Office by 2pm on the Monday prior to the weekend you would like it published. Also, please contact the office to obtain permission to insert fliers into the weekly bulletin.

# Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road \* Avon, Connecticut \* 06001

# 860-673-9858

Rev. John W. McHugh, Ph.D., Pastor www.stannavon.org



# MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 am

Sunday Vigil (Saturday): 4:00 pm

**Sunday:** 7:30, 9:30 and 11:00am

> First Friday: 9:00 am

# **CONFESSIONS:**

Saturday: after 4pm Mass First Friday: Before 9:00 AM Mass Other times by appointment

# **DEVOTIONS:**

Eucharistic Adoration: Mondays 9:30-10:30am

Rosary: 8:30 am, daily

MMP Cenacle: Mondays at 7:15pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Tues.- Fri. 9:30–9:40am in the Sanctuary

Holy Hour: Thursdays at 12noon

April 24, 2022



Sunday of Divine Mercy

MONDAY, April 25 9:00 Paul Burgio (2nd Ann.), requested by the family

## TUESDAY, April 26

9:00 In celebration of the 70th wedding anniversary of Russell & Carmela Gustafson (Living), requested by the family

## WEDNESDAY, April 27

**9:00** Mildred Lawrynowicz, requested by her daughter, Dottie

## THURSDAY, April 28

9:00 For Divine Peace, Divine Love & Divine Will on Earth, requested by David Woolley & Judith Stafford

## FRIDAY, April 29

9:00 For Divine Peace, Divine Love & Divine Will on Earth, requested by David Woolley & Judith Stafford

## SATURDAY, April 30

**4:00** Carmelo Ligato, requested by the Ligato Family

#### SUNDAY, May 1

- 7:30 For Divine Peace, Divine Love & Divine Will on Earth, requested by David Woolley & Judith Stafford
- 9:30 Helen Schroeder, requested by Elaine and George Russell
- **11:00** Joe Koe, requested by Ann Matthes & family

# The Feast of Divine Mercy



Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated here at St. Ann this Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> with a Holy Hour from 2:30-3:30 pm. Please join us to honor Our Lord's request that the Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy.

We began the Divine Mercy Novena on Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. In His revelations to St. Faustina Jesus requested that a Novena be said for the 9 days proceeding Divine Mercy Sunday. The Novena also included the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy.



If you are a resident in this area, we hope that you will continue to grace us with your presence and register with our office manager. You may call 860-673-9858 or stop by the parish office to register. If you are a visitor, we thank you for participating in worshiping with us and we hope to see you again.

# This Week at St. Ann

## MONDAY, April 25

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 9:30-10:30am in the church MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group: 7:15pm, in church (all are welcome!) Lectio Divina, Live!: 7:15pm in Room 3 & via Zoom

## TUESDAY, April 26

## WEDNESDAY, April 27

Wednesday Study Group: 9:30am in Fr. Bennett Hall Knights of Columbus: 7pm in Room 2 Mary Bible Study: 7pm in Activity Room

## THURSDAY, April 28

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church Saint Ann Cares Ministry Meeting: 7pm in Room 2 Adult Confirmation Preparation: 7:15pm in Room 1

## FRIDAY, April 29

Lectio Divina, Live!: 9:45am via Zoom

SATURDAY, April 30

Men's Breakfast Group: 8:00 am in Room 3

#### SUNDAY, May 1

Lectio Divina, Live!: 10:30am via Zoom

The Francine M. Sider Memorial Scholarship

Fr. McHugh is delighted to announce the Francine M. Sider Memorial Scholarship which is available to St. Ann 8th Graders that will be entering a Catholic high school in Fall 2022.

The application is available on our webpage under the "Resources" tab. You can also stop by or call the Parish Office for a copy.

# DEADLINE: April 25, 2022!

If you have any questions please contact Jane Ellen Peregrin at: jep325@hotmail.com.

# WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

Weekly Collection for 4/17/22: \$9,992.17 Online Giving (Apr. 11-20, 2022): \$4,076.50 Next Weekend's 2nd Collection: *none* 



# Join One of Our New Faith Studies

(First-timers welcome!)

# "*Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother*" video series by Dr. Ted Sri

Explore the Biblical roots of our beliefs about Mary the Mother of Jesus; filmed in the Holy Land. Wednesdays: 7-8:30pm in Fr. Bennett Hall (4/20: Activity Rm) April 20-June 8 Fee: \$28 RSVP by April 14 to Eileen - <u>ecdimauro@yahoo.com</u> or Sue Ollestad (860)424-7637

# "Reaching Out" by Henri Nouwen, Book Study

In this perfect book for our times, see how understanding our struggles helps us to love God, self and others better. Thursdays, 9:30-10:30am in Room 3 April 28-May 19 Fee: \$15 (books provided) Leader: Terry Pendergast, terry@frankpendergastinc.com RSVP by April 21 to: ann.distefano@stannavon.com

# PERENNIAL PLANT SALE Sat., May 14, 2022 St. Ann's Parking Lot

# 8am - 12 noon

As the weather grows warmer and you start to work in your yards this spring, please consider sharing some of your perennials that are ready for dividing.Also, any plants, such as tulips and daffodils, that you received for Easter and don't plan to put in your own flower beds would be appreciated. In addition to plants, we are seeking donations of small, gently used gardening accessories (e.g, tools, flower pots, statuary).

# **DONATIONS:**

Please drop off in the parking lot (West Avon Rd side, under tree) Thursday, May 12, from 8:30-10am and 5-7pm Friday, May 13, from 8:30-10am and 1-2pm Please IDENTIFY plants (name, color, sun/shade).

The proceeds from the sale will benefit the Scholarship Program, which supports deserving urban students with partial tuition to Local Catholic high schools.

If you have any questions or would like to help, please call Jean Frey at 860-673-1949. We would be happy to have new volunteers join us.

# Dear Parishioners,

This year there will be 45 candidates receiving the sacrament of First Holy Eucharist. They recently received their First Reconciliation and are preparing for reception of the Blessed Sacrament in the Spring. We will be putting out the "Little Lambs" in the near future so that you can pray for all candidates as they prepare for their sacrament.

Due to ongoing positive response, we would like to continue to gift each child with a First Communion Bible. We are asking that you sponsor any child or children, with this gift anonymously and it will be presented to them on their First Communion Day. In return, we will be asking the children to pray for the person who gave it to them *every time they read their Bible*.

The Bibles are reasonably priced and if you are interested in being part of this beautiful event, please pick up a form in the Gathering Space and return it with your payment of \$15.00 per Bible (made out to Church of St. Ann). Please mail to the church in an envelope clearly marked "for First Communion Bible" or drop it off at the Parish Offices. How pleased Jesus must be to know that both the children of this year's First Eucharist class and the adults of our Parish are praying for each other!

Thank you so much for your consideration and for your prayerful support of these beautiful children! Yours in Christ, Father McHugh





# St. Ann Cares Day of Caring May 14, 2022

St Ann Cares is back! Save the date. We will be having our Day of Caring on Saturday, May 14th. We will be doing the usual painting, carpentry, & landscaping. All skill levels are needed.

Contact Steve Rose with any questions or sign-up information at <u>sjrose1088@gmail.com</u> or 860-250-5355.





The Archbishop's Annual Appeal changes lives through service. In addition to assisting the underserved of our communities, your gift helps those discerning a vocation to the priesthood. Your gift to the Appeal is an investment in the future of our Church and our faith.

Thank you to the parish families who have made a gift or pledge to the 2022 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not yet participated, please prayerfully consider a gift today. Please know that every dollar of your gift will have a positive impact in someone's life.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at: https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/.

# The Holy Eucharist DID YOU KNOW?

Thomas doubts the resurrection of Jesus in our Gospel today. (John 20:19-31) But Jesus gently invites Thomas to see His wounded hands and to place his hand into the sword wound in His side. The wound in Christ's side confirmed that He had already died. When pierced by the soldier's lance, blood and water gushed forth from Christ's side.

In the Divine Mercy image of Jesus, which He revealed to St. Faustina, we can see

streams of red and white light emanating from His side. (Google it.) The red is His Precious Blood in the Holy Eucharist. The white is the cleansing water of Baptism. Both give us Divine Life. Baptism makes us a beloved child of God. The Precious Blood washes us of our sins and nourishes us as we journey to Heaven.

<u>Reflection</u>: Like Thomas, do you doubt the true Prescence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament? Do you doubt the great outpouring of Divine Mercy available to us in the Holy Eucharist at every Mass? Jesus gently invites us to union with Himself with each Holy Communion. He tenderly places us into His pierced Heart and pours out an abundance of grace and mercy upon us.

# APRIL 24, 2022 – SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

#### **EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP** Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

#### The World Is Watching

If you're a parent, you know this to be true: the world is watching. All it takes is one slip-up — one bad word, one selfish action, one uncharitable commentary, and that's the thing your child seems to notice.

When he or she calls you on it, the only thing you can do is come clean. "Yep, I did that," you have to say. "I'm a work in progress, but luckily, God never stops working."

I think it's fair to say that we don't think enough about the wounds of Christ. It's a little understandable, of course. Our human bodies flinch at the sight of such pain and mortification. It's a lot to handle, the physical trauma of a crucifixion. It carries an R rating in a PG world.

But the wounds of Christ are the only thing that could make Thomas believe. Literally nothing else was so powerful, not even the testimony of his most trusted friends. Only by looking at and feeling the torn flesh — by beholding that messy reality — did this Apostle, this actual companion of Christ, come to believe in the Resurrection.

"Christ has no body now but yours," goes the famous quote attributed to St. Teresa of Avila. What she's saying is that we have become the means through which God chooses to accomplish His will in the world. Us, the broken. Us, the weary. Us, the imperfect. Yes, miraculous events and apparitions still occur from time to time, but by and large, if a person is going to come to believe in Jesus Christ in this day and age, it will be because of something we Christians do or say.

Christ has no wounds now but ours. Our brokenness, our weariness, our imperfection — our reality. It all belongs to him, and the world is watching.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

## WEEKLY READINGS

#### Readings for the week of April 24, 2022

Sunday:	Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13,
	17-19/Jn 20:19-31
Monday:	1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20
Tuesday:	Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday:	Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21
Thursday:	Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36
Friday:	Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15
Saturday:	Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21
Next Sunday:	Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Rv 5:11-14/
	Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

#### First Reading:

Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. (Acts 5:14)

#### Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Ps 118) Or Alleluia.

#### Second Reading:

"I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever." (Rev 1:17-18)

#### Gospel:

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst. (Jn 20:19)

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## **INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK** Live the Liturgy

Life is about to get very interesting for the disciples. Finding themselves questioning what happened to Jesus and whether he actually was raised from the dead, they are afraid and uncertain. In the midst of this fear, questioning, and uncertainty, Jesus decides to surprise them with a visit! This visit, complete with the gift of peace, fills the disciples with great excitement and joy. But their detailed testimony is not enough to convince their absent friend Thomas. He wants to see for himself. We struggle with belief as well. It is hard for some to give themselves over to the testimony of another. We want to see the resurrected Christ in person. God, through the gift of eyes of faith, gives us the ability to do precisely that: when we witness the healing that comes from forgiveness, the beauty that flows from love, the wonder of creation, the new life that comes after we fall, and the unique soul that lives behind each person's life. Christ is risen. Life will get very interesting for us too, when we stop unbelieving and believe! ©LPi

# **GOSPEL MEDITATION**

#### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Even Thomas struggles to remove his boulder! Being very pragmatic and determined, he wants to see the risen Christ for himself! Thomas's boulder is heavy with mistrust. Many of ours are too. A certain amount of skepticism is good, as it can save us from being duped or misled. But we can become so skeptical of things that it erodes our ability to trust anything we see or hear. Skepticism can actually be a well-disguised defense mechanism that we use to prevent us from being hurt or perceived as a fool. Having too much ego protection is a real risk. Thomas, because of the boulder blocking his vision, could not even trust the word of his friends.

Boulders are hard to move. It's difficult to seek change or take a risk, especially when we are so afraid to be vulnerable or reluctant to trust another's word. When we are closed minded, overly pragmatic, unwilling to see things in a different way, stubborn or defensive, it is difficult to be surprised by God and stretched. We need to be less guarded, self-assured, and self-absorbed. God cannot break into the ordinary moments of our lives and inspire us when we cling to doubt. If we are going to discover resurrection faith, we have to believe that what the witnesses say is true, especially when they are credible. We also have to trust that the risen Christ is alive in us, too!

While the first witnesses to the resurrection have faded into history, there are many others who have come after them. They continue to inspire by walking the talk of faith. They are the martyrs who offer their lives for the Gospel, the simple holy people in our communities who cling so steadfastly to their faith, those who have touched despair and found new hope and the ones who, even in spite of ridicule, still pursue their hunger and thirst for God. They are our friends, acquaintances, biblical heroes, and saints, and many others who are convinced that they have seen the Lord! The risen Christ may not surprise us with the same kind of visit as he did the first disciples, but God finds other ways. All we have to do is open our eyes, remove whatever is preventing us from seeing and believing and exclaim: "My Lord and my God!"

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